

## Milwaukee's Lead Service Line Replacement Program

There are approximately 67,000 active lead service lines (LSLs) remaining in the City of Milwaukee. New federal funding will bring about \$50 million a year to Wisconsin from 2023 through 2027. This funding will boost Milwaukee's efforts to increase the pace of lead service line replacement.

Milwaukee ordinance requires a full replacement of the lead service line with copper - from the water main that runs under the street to the curb stop (city-owned portion) and from the curb stop to the water meter (customer-owned) in the following situations:

- Child Care Facilities. Lead lines are replaced on continual basis as facilities are licensed.
- Emergencies. When a leak or failure is found anywhere along the lead service line.
- Road projects. Water main replacement projects or major road reconstruction.

Testing of a home's water is available in coordination with any lead service line replacement.

**COST:** The total cost to replace a lead service line is currently (as of May 2020) about \$10,200. The average price changes from year to year due to a variety of factors. The public side costs about \$5100 and the private side costs about \$5100.

For *required* LSL replacements:

- A cost-share for the private side (the city pays 2/3, owner pays 1/3) is available for properties with 1-4 units, if the property owner uses a city contractor.
- Effective March 1, 2022, the cost-share paid for the private side is **\$1,723**.
- This can be paid as a special assessment over 10 years on one's property tax bill
- In addition to paying 2/3 of the private side cost, the City pays 100% of the public side.

For *voluntary*, owner-initiated LSL replacements:

- The property owner pays 100% of the cost of the private side (about \$5100).
- The city pays 100% of the public side (about \$5100).

Sources of lead may be present in internal plumbing. Property owners may want to hire a licensed plumber to replace their *internal plumbing*, in addition to the lead service line.

For required LSL replacements, Milwaukee Water Works will provide 1) instructions for how to properly flush plumbing, and 2) a voucher for a filter pitcher and replacement cartridges.

The filter is to be used for drinking and cooking water while work is ongoing, and up to 30 days after the project is completed, or in the following situations involving construction projects that don't include a lead service line at their property:

- A property with a lead service line is within the vicinity of a water main replacement, but is not directly connected to the section of main being replaced.
- A Department of Public Works sewer replacement or street reconstruction is proximate to a property with a lead service line.